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Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

NOVEMBER 1953

It was a great day we had for the opening of the 1953 Y. B. Camp. The weather was perfect. The chartered buses rolled in if anything ahead of time, and all morning long private cars rolled in with their loads of campers.



As usual, all business was transacted immediately - assignments, camp bank, purchase of punch cards for store and crafts, valuables on deposit, weigh in and throat and nose check by camp doctor and nurses. Then off to the tents with the leaders, picking out a good place to call your own, unpacking, meeting the other boys in your tent group, and almost before you knew it you were engaged with the other boys in your group in selecting a name for your outfit and making a pennant to hang up over your table in the Eating Lodge.

What's that bell for, you ask. "Well, brother" says an old timer, "that's the lunch bell - come on, let's get going", and off you go to the Eating Lodge. Post cards and pencils are on each table and every fellow immediately writes a card to his folks at home telling them of his safe arrival. Following lunch a welcome 45 minute rest period for everyone, campers and leaders, and then

Clang, clang, clang goes another bell - this time for the opening Assembly - a good sing, sign up for Interest Groups, and a few other items of business and information, and then down to the Stony Lake waterfront for the swimming tests, and for a physical check up on the way down, by the camp Doctor. More working on pennants, hiking around to see what the camp looks like - a trip or two to Old Baldy - some pick-up games of badminton, table tennis, baseball, etc. and

By golly, we're on our way again to the Eating Lodge, for dinner. At 7:00 the bell again calls us to Assembly for the official opening program; Pathfinders and Pace-makers are named, tribes are formed, headbands given out - Beaches, red; Breakers, blue; Creeks, green; and Sands, orange. And immediately the big tribal battles, and the contest between the Nations, are on their way, with much enthusiasm on the part of everyone. A brief Vesper talk by Director Wadjepe, a goodnight prayer, and everyone is on his way to his tent, ready for a good sleep to climax a busy and happy first day in camp. The wind blows softly in the tree tops, the leaves rustle overhead, the crickets chirp their goodnight tune, a whip-poor-will joins the chorus, and soon the snores of several hundred campers and leaders add to the volume in such a

2. way as to make the squirrels and chipmunks hold on to each other for all they are worth, wondering what in the world has happened to their quiet Miniwanca woods. And so we come to the close of our first day in camp.

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on out things really begin to happen. Every day is packed full of activities - keen competition between the tribes, volley ball, tournaments, aquatic meets, regattas, track meets, special days, Fair, Topsy Turvy Day, Fourth of July waterfront jamboree, and big camper-leader baseball games that followed; cook-outs, to Little Point Sable and Morse Dam, tennis, archery, crafts, craft, campcraft, nature study, swimming instruction, canoeing, row-sailing instruction, fishing, to say nothing of

The big Night's Doings Programs - always with their air of mystery with everyone trying to outguess the Director and Unit leaders as to what is going to happen. And what a really big line-up of exciting programs those Unit Directors and Joe did work out for last summer's camp - Dr. I. Q., Paper Chase, Bucket and Tub Relay, Human Croquet, Capture the Flag, Bring Home the Bacon, Barn Dance, Uranium Hunt, Alphabet Game, Dodge Ball, Flashlight Relay, Reinforce the Garrison, Scavenger Hunt, Ghost Stories, Miniwanca Square Gardens, Council Circle, Friendly Council, Dramatic Group Plays, Leaders' Frolic, and on and on and on.

The Daily Vesper Services still linger in the memories of the campers, for they were unusually attractive and appealing this past summer. The Service squad did a very fine job of cleaning out the area and cutting down the second growth trees, so as to give us a perfect view of Lake Michigan from our Vesper spot. A sincere word of commendation to all the boys who participated in the Vesper Services; every group took part, giving every camper a rich experience in leadership in a Christian service.

Who will ever forget the fine talks by the leaders on such interesting and important subjects as "What Miniwanca Stands For", "I Believe", "For What Am I Remembered?", "The Lord Is In His Holy Temple", "So You Want To Be A Leader", "Forgiveness", "The Fourth R", "We Give Thee Thanks", "Crown Thy Good With Brotherhood", "The Gospel According To You", "Equality in Practice", "What Doth The Lord Require Of Thee", "You Have To Make Your Own Decisions", "You Have A Right To Be On the Team", "Our Lives Are Like a Road", "The Call of the Crowd", "Proud To Be An American", "Facing Life's Storm", "What Are You Going To Do Now", and the many other interesting subjects presented by the leaders? Yes, Vespers stand out as a high point in the camp program.

Our out-of-Continental U.S.A. representatives this year were Raphael Reyes from Puerto Rico, and Larry Monroe from Aruba, Netherlands West Indies. Both boys were right in the thick of things in all departments of camp life, and in Friendly Council they came through with flying colors, as they answered the many questions of the campers and leaders regarding the modes and customs that prevail in their respective lands.

Again there was a wide range of States represented in Y.B. Camp - 22 in all, and from all parts of the country. Here is the line-up of States: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin - Netherlands West Indies, Puerto Rico - 209 in all, campers and leaders. Y.B. is truly National and International in character.

The Tribe and Nation Competition as usual was keen and exciting, and it remained for the Keeper of the Records to reveal the final winners, especially in the Nation standing, at the closing session of the camp. And here's how it worked out, after five weeks of all-round activity on the part of the tribes: Darers - Breakers 7065, Sands 7335, Beaches 7206, Creeks 7275, with the SANDS on top; Doers - Breakers 8000, Sands 7685, Beaches 7505, Creeks 7515 - Breakers on top; Pre-Seniors - Breakers 7295, Sands 7315, Beaches 6905, Creeks 6670, and again the Sands the high point tribe. But

now comes the surprise, for in spite of two firsts for the Sands, the high point Nation was the Breakers with a total of 22,360, against 22,335 for the runner-up tribe, the Sands - just 25 points difference after five weeks of battle. All of which goes to show that, as has so often been said, "You just can't afford to let down on anything, anytime, anywhere", and so from our Tribal and Nation contests we learn another good lesson - My Self Best All Time. Well, there's another camp next summer, and perhaps there will be another story to tell, eh, Tribes?

Well, we had some very classy swimmers in the 1953 Y.B. Camp. One aquatic record was broken - the 100 yard relay, time 61.7 and a new record established by the Sands, with Bill Latta, Bob Close, Pete Baker and Bob Brandenberger making up the relay team. Bill Murdock of the Creeks equalled the breast stroke record set by Jim Thorson ten years ago in 1943. That was just about a sixteenth of a hair's breadth from establishing a new record. We'll see you next summer, Bill, and we'll all be pulling for you to be the new Miniwanca breast stroke King.



The New Athletic Field was probably so new that it was difficult to establish any new records. But that Athletic Field project certainly was a humdinger. You who had a part in it will recall seeing the big 12 foot blade bulldozer slashing a clearing through the woods, on a wonderfully level spot on the South Road property. As fast as the trees fell, and were shoved out of the way, the campers and leaders jumped in and commenced chopping and sawing, cutting down overhanging branches, and generally helped getting things ready for the graveling of the area. The rains came and various leaders ran their cars up and down the track, and soon had it in fairly usable shape. It will settle over the winter and early next spring we'll be on there with our trucks and cars hammering down the gravel so as to get the track in good shape for the Y. B. Track Meets. We'll be looking for some records to fall next summer. Practice up you Y.B. athletes and keep in good shape over the winter.

The Creeks, by the way, captured the Track Meet last summer, but it was a very close race. Points scored for total meet - Creeks 187.8; Breakers 181.2; Sands 180.1 and Beaches 169.2. In the Tribal scoring the results were as follows: Darers - Creeks 1st 65.4; Sands 2nd 63.0; Breakers 3rd 59.8 and Beaches 4th 58.9. Doers - Creeks 57.7; Sands 56.9; Beaches 56.6 and Breakers 56.5. Pre-Seniors - Breakers 64.9; Creeks 64.8; Sands 60.1 and Beaches 53.6 - a mighty close contest throughout.

In the matter of recognitions, 62 campers received their first year plaques, 49 second year campers were given their CM emblem, 18 third year campers were presented the Certificate of The American Youth Foundation, 5 fourth year men received the new fourth year pins, one camper qualified for the fifth year recognition, and one for a special sixth year medal. Brian Johnson was the fifth year camper, and Wayne Givens was the sixth year man.

Nineteen Boy Scouts worked on their 1st and 2nd class requirements and Merit Badge programs. This work was done under the excellent leadership of Dick Stults who this year is a student at Princeton Theological Seminary. You Boy Scout Y.B. campers should remember that this program in Scouting is offered every year in Y.B. Camp.

Sunday Services on Chapel Dune are always an attractive feature of Y.B. Camp. Chapel Dune is one of Miniwanca's loveliest spots. The Service Crew again did an excellent job of clearing up the place and opening new vistas through to Lake Michigan. It is always a pleasure just to be up there in that wonderful spot. The services are always well planned and impressive; the Camp Choir this year performed brilliantly. The attention and participation of the campers couldn't be better. It is a kind of service that one is not likely to forget, and we're always glad when Sunday comes and we can again find our way to Chapel Dune for another unforgettable service in our Y.B. Camp Church. And then of course there is that special service in the great Church of the Dunes over in the main camp unit. I wonder if Y.B. campers generally

4 are aware of the fact that the architect's model of that church took first prize in a showing of models at an Architects' Convention and was also written up in two Architectural Journals.

Say, how did you like that ritzy canvas covering on the docks? Wasn't that really something - just as smooth as the carpet in your living room; no bumps, no slippery or splintery boards. It surely was a great addition to our waterfront equipment; and it made the docks look spic and span all summer long. We are indebted to our good friend and American Youth Foundation Trustee, S. F. Shattuck of Neenah, Wisconsin, for securing this canvas for us. This canvas is used as a conveyor belt for pulp in one of the great Kimberly Clark Paper Mills. I am sure every camper and leader is saying a hearty "How How" to Mr. Shattuck for his kindness in securing this fine equipment for us for our waterfront.

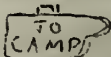


Did you notice how smoothly we went through the summer this year in our Health Department? Extra precautions were taken to check on all possible contagious disease before camp and at the time of enrolment. And we had the good luck to get through the five weeks period without any mumps, or measles, etc. The health of the camp was good, what with the excellent care and checking of our camp doctors, Dr. Don Roberts, Dr. Garrott Allen, and our camp nurse Dorothy Rice, and of course the splendid cooperation of you campers and leaders. Let's do it again next summer.

Those new Tent-houses of the Doers were quite the thing last summer. More room in the 16 X 18 units than we have in the tents 14 X 16. This year the two odd tents of the Darers are being removed and all Darers will be quartered in their own Darer Village. Several new tent-houses are being built in the Darer Unit.

The Pre-senior Unit will have a complete face-lifting operation during the Fall and Winter months. All the old tent platforms have been torn down and a Pre-Senior Village Unit is being built of 16 X 18 tent-houses in the beautiful woods area just east of the tennis courts. The old dark room building is being removed to another location to make way for the Pre-Senior Village. There will be a general meeting place constructed in the center of the Village, so that the Pre-Seniors can at times have their own Village Fire, if they so desire.

And up on the vacated ridge - now hold your breath, if all goes well and our plans work out successfully, there will be erected a social center - library, reading room, quiet game department, and general ease-up spot for quiet games, reading, group conversation and relaxation. There will be a nice fireplace in the building, and the big windows on the ridge side of the building will overlook Stony Lake. Many other features are planned and every effort will be made to have the building ready for use on the opening day of Y. B. Camp. It will be of interest to note that a wash and "powder" room is being included in the plans, for mothers and sisters when they come to pay us a visit.



You Pre-Seniors of last summer and you YB'ers who will be in Pre-Senior Unit next summer will want to be back sure to help initiate, and establish the precedents for the new Pre-Senior Unit. You're going to like the new lay-out a lot. It really is swell. Forty fellows only in Pre-Senior Unit. Better get in your reservation.

Great Guns, we've got to stop and leave room for the camp roster. We have left tons of things unsaid - lots of little and important things that are being done around YB. The biffy has a complete new roof, all done; no more leaky roof. The sailboats next summer will be in better shape than ever. New tillers, redesigned, have already been made. The sailboat bottoms were scraped this year the moment they were put in the boat house, and the hulls all put up in such a way as to enable calking and paint-work to be done during the winter and spring months. The big war canoe will be back in shape and recommissioned next summer - no better way to teach canoe paddling than in that war canoe. Tribal races against time also will be possible.

And so on, and so forth. All of which is another way of saying,

We're on our way for the season of 1954. Advance enrolments at this date are heavier than ever. Y.B. will undoubtedly be fully enrolled this season at a very early date. Some of you have sent us names and addresses of your friends. Others are planning to do so. If you have a friend you want to recommend, rush name and address to us at once, and we will send information. Remember, all Miniwanca campers are personally recommended. We do not advertise any of our camps in papers or magazines.

Your own application should come in promptly. It is always our plan to give the old campers first chance at registration. Your letter of invitation and application card were sent to your parents about a week ago. If in the rush of things your card has not yet been mailed, we would urge that you attend to this without delay, for we do want our old campers to have first opportunity to register.

Well, that's it for now. A happy and thankful THANKSGIVING to you and all the members of your family. Our Miniwanca experience has given us all a finer and truer meaning of God. We are grateful to Him for all His many blessings. Our hearts should always echo His praise. Our love for Him should find expression in our daily lives. So again, a meaningful Thanksgiving to you. Live up to your Miniwanca Fourfold standards. Be a true, sturdy Christian leader, and life will bring to you much joy and happiness.

Founderly and Miniwancally yours,

Wadjepe -

P. G. Orwig, Director
The American Youth Foundation



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(Correction: R. Bodenbender's School Address - 1853 W. Polk, Chicago 12, Ill.)

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Streetman, Dick, 44 Webster Acres, Webster Groves 19, Missouri
Stremmel, Carl, Jr., 309 - 17th Street, Wilmette, Illinois
Stump, John, R.F.D., Powell, Ohio
Tubbesing, Ted, 544 Florence, Webster Groves 19, Missouri
Twichell, Frederick, 924 Woodland Avenue, So. Charleston, West Virginia
Twichell, Joseph, 924 Woodland Avenue, So. Charleston, West Virginia
Urmston, Robert, 514 Camel Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Voran, Brice, 18 Berwyn Road, Muncie, Indiana
Walker, David, 442 So. Park Road, LaGrange, Illinois
Walker, Donald, 59 Wilshire Terrace, Webster Groves 19, Missouri
Ware, Robert, 116 S. 22nd Street, Richmond, Indiana
Wells, Tobin, 555 Fairfax, Birmingham, Michigan
Wetzel, Rick, 505 Waldron Ct., Seymour, Indiana
Watkins, Frank, Hickory Hill Farm, R.R. #1, Franklin, Ohio
White, Edward, 117 Kenner Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee
White, Frederic, 679 McKnight Road, Ladue 5, Missouri
Wildman, Jerry, 211 Beauregard Street, Charleston 1, West Virginia
Williamson, Daniel, 9908 Old Warson Road, St. Louis 17, Missouri

Woodbridge, Frederick, 20799 Almar Drive, Shaker Heights 22, Ohio
Woodruff, Kenneth, 2811 Dunkirk Avenue, Norfolk 9, Virginia
Young, William, 427 Lake Avenue, Franklin, Ohio
Zeiders, Robert, 2917 Westmoreland Road N.W., Canton 9, Ohio
Zimmerman, Kent, 4915 Grand Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois

And JOE says -

Hello gang: it's sure good to be "talking" to you again. Hope you're off to a good start this Fall. Make it a good year - your best. Work away on those suggestions given you by the Counselling leaders. "Live Miniwanca" in your home, your school, and your church, and get ready for another big Miniwanca camp experience next summer. From the Trail you can see that things are popping up there at camp. All those new improvements will sure be fine. Get your application in at once, and we'll be seeing you.

Joe

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1954 Camp Dates

YOUNGER BOYS CAMP - June 23 to July 28

Younger Girls Camp - June 24 to July 29

Older Girls Camp - Aug. 2 to 15

Older Boys Camp - Aug. 16 to 29